

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01281 311603Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12
ARA-10 /093 W

-----101936 311608Z /50

O P 311522Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6237
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, ET, SO, OAU
SUBJECT: THE OGADEN CONFLICT

REF: LAGOS 476

1. DR. FAFOWARA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEA'S AFRICA DEPARTMENT FOR NORTHERN AND WESTERN AFRICA, TOLD DCM JANUARY 31 THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA WILL SHORTLY VISIT ADDIS ABABA AND THEN MOGADISCIO TO INVITE THESE TWO GOVERNMENTS TO MEET WITH THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION IN LAGOS. GARBA, WHO IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO LAGOS JANUARY 31, WILL PROBABLY START THIS TRIP ON FEBRUARY 3,Q BUT POSSIBLY NOT UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK. FAFOWARA
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 01281 311603Z

INDICATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION HAD APPROVED THESE INVITATIONS AND THAT NIGERIA WAS IN FACT 'UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE' TO EXTEND THEM.

2. FAFOWARA COMMENTED THAT ETHIOPIA MAY WELL TURN DOWN THE INVITATION BUT THAT 'WE HAVE TO TRY'. HE ALSO RE-

MARKED THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE THE REAL CRUX OF THE
MEDIATION PROBLEM, SINCE HE DOESN'T THINK THE
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT REALLY HAS THE POWER OF
INDEPENDENT DECISION ANY MORE. FAFORWARA CONSIDERED

IT QUITE LIKELY THAT THE RUSSIANS EXPECT THEIR PRESTIGE
AND INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA TO BE EVEN STRONGER IF THE
FIGHTING GOES ON UNTIL THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE RECAPTURED
THE OGADEN.

3. AS A FOOTNOTE, THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR HERE HAS TOLD
THE DCM THAT SOMALI FORCES RECENTLY CAPTURED SOME
CUBANS 'AT THE FRONT' IN THE OGADEN, AND THE SOMALI
COUNSELOR SAID THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT IS THINKING OF
EXHIBITING THESE CUBAN CAPTIVES TO THE SKEPTICAL
INTERNATIONAL PRESS
EASUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS01281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780046-0314
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978014/aaaaadbc.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b1ac7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LAGOS 476
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3739881
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE OGADEN CONFLICT
TAGS: PBOR, PORO, ET, SO, NI, OAU, (GARBA, JOSEPH N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b1ac7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014